

Congressional Record

Proceedings and debates of the 105^{th} congress, first session

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1997

No. 26

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President protempore [Mr. Thurmond].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, help us to hear and accept the psalmist's prescription for peace. "Cast your burden on the Lord and He shall sustain you."—Psalm 55:22.

In this quiet moment of liberating prayer, we deliberately commit each one of our burdens, large or small, into Your gracious care. Help us not to snatch them back. Give us an extra measure of Your wisdom, insight, and discernment as we tackle the challenges of this day. Make this a productive day in which we live with confidence that You will guide our thinking, unravel our difficulties, and empower our decisions. Especially we ask for Your guidance for the vote on the balanced budget amendment. Help us to maintain unity in the midst of differences. Now, we are ready for the day. We intend to live it with freedom and joy, through our Lord and Saviour.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. Under a previous order, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the time will be equally divided between the two managers for closing remarks on Senate Joint Resolution 1. The Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences, and at 2:15, then, the manager of the Democratic side will control 1 hour of debate

with Senator BYRD being recognized for 20 minutes, the following hour will be under the control of Senator HATCH, with the next half-hour being under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee. Debate will conclude, then, with 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader. At 5:15, a vote will occur on passage of Senate Joint Resolution 1. I remind all Senators again of this 5:15 vote and ask all Senators to be in their seats for this important rollcall vote. It has been traditional, when we have major votes on a constitutional question, that Senators come and take their seats and then stand in place and cast their votes.

I thank our colleagues for their attention in this matter, and I yield the floor

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The acting Democratic leader

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I concur with what the majority leader said about being on the floor for the vote. I concur. I think it is an extremely important one. Also, under our unanimous-consent agreement, I will be controlling the time for the Democratic side. A number of Senators on our side have asked for specific carve-outs of time other than what has been set in the unanimous consent. I urge Senators who wish to speak to come to the floor and be prepared to speak.

floor and be prepared to speak.

I see my distinguished friend from Utah, who will be handling that side. We have all been able to work things out as traffic cops on this, but I hope everyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity.

I yield the floor.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now

resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A joint resolution (Senate Joint Resolution 1) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced budget.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 12:30 p.m. shall be equally divided between the two managers. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am very honored to be able to turn to a man who has led the fight for the balanced budget amendment ever since he arrived at the Senate, the most senior Senator in the whole U.S. Senate, a person all look up to, who has been my mentor on this issue and so many others, and one of my dearest friends in this world, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator STROM THURMOND, for 5 minutes or whatever time he needs.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today as we draw to a close the debate on this historic opportunity to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment. This debate is about much more than an amendment to the Constitution, as significant as that is. It is about taking action once and for all that will control the size and scope of the Federal Government.

I have been deeply concerned during my years in the Senate over the growth of the Federal bureaucracy. The first \$100 billion budget in the history of the Nation occurred in 1962. This was almost 180 years after the Nation was founded. Yet, it took only 9 years, from 1962 to 1971, for the Federal budget to reach \$200 billion. Then, the Federal budget continued to skyrocket; \$300 billion in 1975, \$500 billion in 1979, \$800 billion in 1983, and the first \$1 trillion budget in 1987. The budget for fiscal year 1996 was over \$1.5 trillion.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

